

(d) whether more agents would be appointed in rural areas; and

(e) the steps proposed to hasten the process of outsourcing sale of railway tickets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Instructions have been issued to permit approved Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) members to book e-tickets.

(c) With a view to ensure easy availability of tickets, efforts are on to proliferate e-ticketing by authorising outside agencies to book e-tickets.

(d) Agents will be appointed in all areas including rural areas depending upon demand pattern.

(e) Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is selling e-tickets through SIFY Cyber Cafes, E-Seva of Andhra Pradesh Government, distributors of ITZ Cash Cards/Done Cash Cards outlets and Punjab State Government run Kiosks. It is a continuous process.

Pending projects of West Bengal

2689. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects pending in respect of West Bengal Government, project-wise;

(b) the reasons for delay in the implementation of these projects;

(c) whether Government are considering the proposal for introduction of inter-city trains to/from various important cities of West Bengal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The details of ongoing projects falling fully/partly in West Bengal along with anticipated cost and their status are as under:—

(Rupees in Crore)

Sl. No.	Project	KMs	Anticipated Cost	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
New Lines				
1.	Tarakeshwar-Bishnupur with Ext. up to Kumarkundu Bypass connecting Howrah-Bardhaman Chord	85	255.68	Land acquisition has been taken up.
2.	Mandarhill-Rampurhat via Dumka	130	254.07	Land acquisition has been taken up.
3.	Azimganj (Nasipur)-Jiyaganj up to the Ghat	6.6	22.78	Land acquisition has been taken up.
4.	Howrah-Amta including Bargachia to Champadanga	73.7	154.3	Howrah-Amta completed. However, land to be provided free of cost by State Government as per Memorandum of Understanding, is yet to be handed over.
5.	Eklakhi-Balurghat & Gazole-Itahar	113.11	282.74	Eklakhi-Balurghat (87.11 Km.) completed & preliminary works taken up on Gazole to Itahar.
6.	New Maynaguri-Jogighopa	257	894.38	Land acquisition has been taken up.

1	2	3	4	5
Gauge Conversion				
1.	Katihar-Jogbani and Katihar-Barsoi-Radhikapur	200	402.98	Barsoi-Radhikapur (54 Kms.) completed and Katihar to Barsoi is targeted during 2006-07.
2.	Bankura-Damodar River Project GC, Bowaichandi-Khanna NL, Rainagar-Chanchai NL & Bankura-Mukutmanipur NL	198	282.7	Bankura-Sonamukhi (42 Kms.) section commissioned and Sonamukhi-Rainagar is targeted during 2006-07.
3.	New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigaon including linked branch lines	419.48	890.83	New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon completed and Alipurduar to Bamanhat targeted during 2006-07.
Doubling				
1.	Baruipur-Lakshmikanthpur PH-I (Baruipur-Dakshini Barasat)	17	31.82	Baruipur to Dhapdhapi is targeted during 2006-07.
2.	Tarakeshwar-Sheoraphulli PH-I (Sheoraphulli-Nalikul)	17.76	38.88	Sheoraphulli-Singur completed. Singur-Nalikul is targeted during 2006-07.
3.	Tikiapara-Santragachi IV line	5.6	46.79	Encroachments are affecting progress in about 3 Kms. length.
4.	Habra-Chandpara	22.25	40.81	Habra-Maslandpur targeted during 2006-07.

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Chandpara-Bongaon	9.77	22.23	Work has been taken up.
6.	Barasat-Hasanabad doubling with electrification PH-I (Barasat-Sondalia)	12.12	23.65	Land acquisition has been taken up.
7.	Bandel-Jirat	22.01	50.14	Bandel-Bansberia (4 Kms.) completed Bansberia to Tribeni targeted during 2006-07.
8.	Baruipur-Magrahat	15	30.1	Work has been taken up.
9.	Pandabeswar-Chinpal	21.41	69.04	Work has been taken up.
10.	Chinpal-Sainthia	29.71	80	Work has been taken up.
11.	Kalinarayanpur-Krishnanagar including Ext. as GC from Krishnanagar-Shantipur and New line Krishnanagar to Chartala	51	43.49	Birnagar-Kalinarayanpur targeted during 2006-07.
Metropolitan Transport Project				
1.	Dum Dum-Tollyganj Design and construction of Rapid Transit System	24.95	2624.64	Targeted for completion during 2007-08.
Railway Electrification				
1.	Andal-Pandabeswar	20	33.06	Preliminary Works taken up.
2.	Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar including Talcher-Paradeep	540	406.51	Work is targeted for completion during 2006-07.
3.	Krishnanagar-Lalgola	128	79.83	Targeted for completion in 2007-08.

(c) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

(d) Does not arise.

Gauge conversion in Andhra Pradesh

2690. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of gauge conversion work of railway lines in Andhra Pradesh going on during the last three years till date, project-wise;

(b) the budgetary provisions made for ongoing above mentioned projects in the State during this period;

(c) the present status of gauge conversion works from Dharmavaram-Pakala project in the State;

(d) whether Government have sanctioned any additional budget for completion of pending gauge conversion works in the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when the above conversion works is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (f) The details of ongoing gauge conversion projects including Dharmavaram-Pakala gauge conversion, falling fully/partly in Andhra Pradesh, along with anticipated cost, expenditure incurred up to 31st March, 2006, outlay for 2006-07 along with the present status is as under:—

(Rupees in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Anticipated Cost	Expenditure incurred upto 31.3.2006	Outlay (2006-07)	Current Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Mudkhed-Adilabad	284.64	226.57	29.98	Work completed.
2.	Secunderabad-Mudkhed & Jankampet-Bodhan	390.47	345.65	10.00	Work completed.
3.	Guntur-Guntakal & Guntakal-Kalluru-new line from Pendakallu-Gooty.	508.42	470.42	18.00	Work completed except Guntakal-Kalluru.